

COCHIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION, 1119

Tuesday, the *14th December 1943*
28th Vrischigam 1119

The Council met in the Council Hall, Ernakulam, at half past eleven of the clock with the Honb'le the President (Sir G. T. BOAG, K.C.I.E., C.S.I.), in the Chair.

Khan Sahib Ismail Hajee Essa Sait, and Messrs. V. J. Mathai and A. L. Antony were absent.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

IRON IMPLEMENTS—HIGH PRICE OF

1. **Mr. K. Narayana Menon** (*Mulakunnathukavu*): Will Government be pleased to state.—

(a) whether they are aware of the very high price of Iron Implements for agricultural operations;

(b) in view of the inescapable nature of the expenditure to the agriculturist and in the interests of food cultivation will they be pleased to consider the desirability of having these indispensable implements available from the Government stock at reasonable prices?

Mr. T. K. Nayar (*Minister for Rural Development*):

(a) Yes.

(b) The Agriculture Department is stocking some implements and they are sold to the public at the cost price. Government are making arrangements to get down iron materials at cheap rates; when they are obtained implements will be supplied at reasonable prices.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon (*Mulakunnathukavu*): I don't put the question.

BIO-CHEMIST CLASS—TRAINING OF

2. **Mr. M. Krishna Menon** (*Trichur-North*): Will Government be pleased to state.—

(a) whether there was any proposal from the Trichur Municipality to send an Officer for training in the Bio-Chemist class at Bangalore;

(b) any Officer was deputed for the training; and

(c) if not, whether the services of a trained hand are not essential in regard to the preparation of suitable manure from rubbish collected out of the Municipal area?

Mr. T. K. Nayar (*Minister for Rural Development*):

(a) There was a proposal to send an Officer for training; but it did not originate from the Trichur Municipality.

(b) No.

(c) The question is under consideration.

SLUMS—CLEARANCE OF

3. **Mr. A. V. Moothedan** (*Chalakkudi*): Will Government be pleased to state whether they are considering any proposals for the clearance of the slums in Ernakulam and Mattancheri?

Mr. C. J. Mathew (*Joint Secretary to Government*): There are no proposals now under consideration. The question of improving the low-lying swampy areas in Ernakulam and Mattancheri has already engaged the attention of Government but it has been put off for consideration after the War.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan (*Chalakkudi*): May I know, Sir, whether there has been any scheme prepared for clearing the slums in Ernakulam and Mattancheri?

Mr. C. J. Mathew (*Joint Secretary to Government*): Yes. There are schemes prepared.

Mr. A. B. Salem (*Mattancheri*): How long is it since it has been made ready?

Mr. C. J. Mathew (*Joint Secretary to Government*): I think the Mattancheri scheme has been ready since 4 or 5 years.

Mr. A. B. Salem (*Mattancheri*): That is before the war started?

Mr. C. J. Mathew (*Joint Secretary to Government*): The full scheme was ready after the war started.

Mr. A. B. Salem (Mattancheri): Are not the Government aware that the health and well-being not only of the Civilian population but of the European military population are affected by the existence of these swamp areas in Mattancheri and in Ernakulam, more in Mattancheri?

Mr. C. J. Mathew (Joint Secretary to Government): Government are absolutely satisfied that it is necessary to improve the swamp areas and reclaim them and with that view Government made an offer to lend money to the owners of those lands if they are prepared to take it on a loan basis to improve those swamp areas.

Mr. A. B. Salem (Mattancheri): What was the reply?

Mr. C. J. Mathew (Joint Secretary to Government): No reply from the Municipality.

Mr. President: Order, Order. The Hon'ble Member should ask for definite information.

Mr. A. B. Salem (Mattancheri): My question is this; Are the Government aware that the health and well-being of the military population as well as the Civilian population are greatly threatened by the existence of these swamp areas?

Mr. President: Order, Order. The Hon'ble Member is entering into an argument. Supplementary questions may not take the form of an argument.

Mr. A. B. Salem (Mattancheri): I am not arguing.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan (Chalakkudi): May I know whether soon after the war Government will be in a position to start the work immediately?

Mr. C. J. Mathew (Joint Secretary to Government): Yes.

Mr. A. B. Salem (Mattancheri): What is the cost estimated?

Mr. C. J. Mathew (Joint Secretary to Government): The Mattancheri scheme would cost about 4½ lakhs and the Ernakulam scheme about 3½ lakhs of rupees.

Mr. A. B. Salem (Mattancheri): What is the contribution that the Government ask the Municipality to bear?

Mr. C. J. Mathew (Joint Secretary to Government): There is no question of contribution. Government only suggested that if the owners are prepared to take a loan, they would lend the money.

Mr. A. B. Salem (Mattancheri): How much? Government was not prepared to contribute anything.

Mr. C. J. Mathew (Joint Secretary to Government): The details did not come from the Municipality, and the Government had no occasion to consider them.

Mr. N. Govinda Pai (Nominated): Did not the Municipality put in a proposition to reclaim them by floating debentures?

Mr. C. J. Mathew (Joint Secretary to Government): Yes. But Government said the loans will be given to the owners of the properties to reclaim them.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan (Chalakkudi): The Government Secretary said that the Government were willing to give loans for improving these areas. Were the public informed of it?

Mr. C. J. Mathew (Joint Secretary to Government): At Ernakulam, the Municipality itself requested the Government to drop the matter for the duration of the war. With regard to Mattancheri, Government made the offer to the Municipality.

Mr. A. B. Salem (Mattancheri): What was the reason that stood in the way of Government giving the loan to the Municipality?

Mr. C. J. Mathew (Joint Secretary to Government): The Municipality suggested that they will raise a loan and reclaim the lands and sell them. Instead of venturing upon that Government suggested that if the owners themselves ask for a loan, Government have no objection to accept that scheme.

Mr. Shabdai S. Koder (Nominated): May I know who prepared the scheme?

Mr. C. J. Mathew (Joint Secretary to Government): The Mattancheri Municipality.

Mr. Shabdai S. Koder (Nominated): Was an expert called?

Mr. C. J. Mathew (Joint Secretary to Government): No. A full survey was made and the scheme was prepared.

MULLUKAYAL—TENANTS IN ACTUAL CULTIVATION AND THE YIELD THEREFROM

4. **Mr. K. Narayana Menon (Mulakunnathukavu):** Will Government be pleased to state.—

(a) the actual number of tenants holding lands in actual cultivation in this area comprised in the storage of water for kole cultivation, Mullukayal;

(b) the approximate yield that can be expected per para of seed sowing lands mentioning the maximum and minimum?